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THE L.A.A. VISIT TO CLAYDON.

BY ONE WHO WENT.

The fourth of July is gone and the Claydon outing is now an item to add to our list of pleasant memories. What a day! Nature seemed to know, and to spread out all her beauties to refresh that two-score of hot and dusty library assistants who alighted at Grandborough Road. Whilst the broiling sun was sweltering our less fortunate brethren in town, the feeling of escape made us the more ready for our day's programme. The road to East Claydon, hedged on the one hand and meadowed on the other, was an enjoyable prospect, and we almost regretted the presence of the brakes which were waiting to convey us to our first point of call. Hedgerow after hedgerow, now and again topped by a hayrick or cottage thatch past the lazy-looking, browsing cattle, we found ourselves at East Claydon, a pretty village suggesting Shottery to the roamer in Shakespeare-land. Here, right in the heart of the country, we stopped outside a Public Library; a model structure and a marvel of rural enterprise. Happily we missed the electric trams and the noisy thoroughfares which (alas) are only too often associated with the "people's universities" in towns, but once inside, our expectations of rustic arrangement were instantly dispelled. From the book reading room we sauntered through to the larger lecture-hall and the adjoining recreation room, everywhere noting the exquisite appointments. Flowers in every corner caught the eye, nor could we miss the many evidences of real "extension" work which add to the usefulness of the institution and link up so many local interests. We will not speak of book arrangement or architecture here—it would be out of place, but it should be stated that the service of the building seemed up-to-date, and that the construction, both from the point of view of the artistic and the convenient, puts many a heavy-looking expensive Metropolitan library quite in the shade. Leaving East Claydon, a walk of half a mile across the fields brought us to Claydon House. On the way we passed the two famous pollard oaks whose massive trunks bespeak the age assigned to them—at least 700 years; trees that Charles I. desired to convert into ship timbers, but which were fortunately spared because it would have proved too expensive to transport them. We mutely thanked those difficulties for cropping up and King Charles for his perception; we gazed our full, and passed on. At Claydon House we were most kindly received by Sir Edmund and Lady Verney. There was no evidence of that stiffness and formality which so often renders similar gatherings so flat. Sir Edmund is a past master in the art of making one feel at home, and his efforts in this direction were most heartily supported by Lady Verney and by his daughter. On a "picture" lawn, shaded by old trees and overlooked by the old 14th century church, we were invited to tea. The school-boy feeling is not dead in us yet, and

we would speak of those strawberries and cream, but there is much to relate and little space. Tea over, the house was inspected. Entering the conservatory, through which the library is reached, we noticed on the door jamb the inscription, "Whatever you do, for goodness sake don't leave this door open," the authorship of which we did not enquire, having made a shrewd guess. Sir Edmund told us of roaming peacocks with a taste for good bindings, and we understood all. The library is a lovely place—just what a library should be; a fitting birthplace for the "Verney Memoirs," upon which Lady Verney has expended so much of her time, and a happy resting place for Sir Edmund's collection of rare and curious Bibles.* Magnificent cases hold books of a wide scope, and the comfortable settees made one think of the winter evenings when the wind whistled without and the cheery fire flamed in the chimney-way. Room after room we wandered through—grand lofty apartments, decorated with much richness and hung around with pictures and family portraits, many by the masters, and thronged with curios from every clime. Here a skin from Africa, there a massive set of dulcimers from some temple in Java, and there again a group of trophies, the spoils of Sir Edmund's varied campaigns. The cosmopolitan tone of it all struck us keenly; we were warmed up with the many anecdotes our host told us in connection with these knick-knacks, and we could hardly check the murmur of admiration when he showed us some "little things" he had "picked up" at Lucknow after the Relief. Draperies from the bazaars at Smyrna, a benediction cushion from the old Church at Amsterdam (a memory of Sir Edmund's middy days) are here in close touch with works of art from Greece and Rome. One could spend a lifetime at Claydon, could our host be spared to recount the events of which these curios are the mementos. Sir Edmund told us that, in common with his father, he had been a keen collector, and that he was constantly acquiring things—"honestly, when possible." Mention must be made of the lovely staircase leading from the hall, stairs constructed of inlaid woods of rare delicacy and design, well finished by a choice balustrading of floreated ironwork. The tale runs that Sir Edmund's father, seeing a farmer descending by these stairs, exclaimed with some anxiety, "Have a care, man; mind the stairs." "That's alright," replied the farmer, "I've got good nails in my boots!" Leaving Claydon House, we visited the church, full of Verney and Calvert memorials, where some good 15th century brasses are to be seen. Later, the party drove to Steeple Claydon, where perhaps the prettiest Public Library of its size was inspected. This building was designed by Raymond Unwin (who was responsible for the pretty annexe at East Claydon) and from every point of view it is perfect. Red tiles play a conspicuous part on the exterior, and within every novelty that goes to increase service and add charm will be found. The lecture-hall and reading room with its dainty inglenook, its rich, quiet colouring and tasty window dressings, and the library proper, with its gallery suspended with chains (bespeaking the inventiveness of one well acquainted with shipboard) make the finest arrangement conceivable. We must not omit the remark that the collection of books is quite on a par with the building. For a long time we roamed about here, and not until Mr. Chambers began a resolution of thanks to our kind host and hostess did we realise that all too soon our day was spent. Sir Edmund responded warmly, wishing us and the L.A.A. every prosperity, and we awoke from our happy dreams to find ourselves once more in the brakes en route for Calvert and the Land of Smoke. We had gained by the brush with Nature—short though it was; we had ex-

* See article in "The Library Assistant," Vol. II., pp. 206-9.

perienced a very real contact with one of the historic families of England, and we had practically tackled the rural libraries question in such a delightful manner, that could it be applied to our legislators for but one brief day rural libraries would soon be largely in evidence. What was lost by those who could not come? Everything!

NOTE.—No account of Claydon Church has been given—that the reader can glean in a Bucks topography. No mention has been made of the historic family and the part it has played in our nation's history—for that we refer the reader to the "Verney Memoirs." We also realise that we have failed to record the way things were accomplished at Claydon—here we advise the reader to turn up Vol. II., p. 225, where Claydon's fight and Claydon's success are more ably described by him who was the pioneer, and is still the backbone of rural library establishment.

L.A.A. ANNUAL CRICKET MATCHES.

It is proposed that two half-day cricket matches be arranged annually. One, Senior Library Assistants north of the Thames *versus* Seniors south of the Thames, and another between Junior Library Assistants in the same areas. The date proposed for this year is **August 22nd**, and the ground will be Regent's Park Match Ground. Play to commence at 3.30 p.m. All members desiring to play for either side must send their names to Mr. William A. Peplow, Assistant Hon. Sec., Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon, before 15th August. The Croydon P.L. Staff Guild will provide the outfit. It is hoped that some vigorous cricket will result, and that every London and every Suburban library will be represented by a player.

NOTES ON MATERIALS FOR LIBRARY BOOKBINDING.

By GEO. A. STEPHEN, Bishopsgate Institute.

At the outset let it be stated that it is not the intention of the writer to deal with this important subject in a technical manner. Rather it is his object to mention a few points connected with it, which, it is hoped, may be of more or less interest to assistants.

When the question arises, in what material shall a particular book be bound? it should be preceded by another: what purposes is the book to serve? The answer will condition the material to be used in the binding of the book.

There are wide discrepancies of opinion amongst librarians and others as to the suitability of the various materials employed for the binding of public library books. Hard and fast rules cannot be laid down as to which material is best adapted for the several classes of books. Broadly speaking, these fall into four divisions:

- 1.—*Books Occasionally Required*: certain pamphlets, magazines, fiction, etc., not in great demand. As these are put together chiefly for appearance sake, the smaller volumes may be suitably bound in cloth, the heavier in buckram.
- 2.—*Books of Permanent Value* that must find a place on the shelves, but are only for occasional reference: standard historical works, the classics, the statutes, etc. This class requires a binding that will stand atmospheric action for an indefinite period, therefore buckram will be found a suitable material. Rare books and *éditions de luxe* might be more ambitiously bound in seal and levant morocco.

3.—*Books in Frequent Demand, but of Ephemeral Interest*: popular fiction, books on current topics, technical works that are likely to become obsolete or superseded by later editions. Persian calf or Persian morocco will provide a durable binding for the few years these volumes are in circulation.

4.—*Books in Constant Demand*: dictionaries, encyclopædias, atlases, etc. Morocco and pigskin would be well employed for such books as these which must have the strongest binding that it is possible to obtain, in order to stand constant wear and tear.

As to the relative merits of materials for binding, the old adage, "there is nothing like leather" is still true, providing the leather has been properly tanned and prepared.

Pig or Hog skin is a very desirable and good material if in its undyed state and not pared down. To judge from the condition of the white pigskin found on bindings of the 15th and 16th centuries it would appear that pigskin is the most durable of all leathers. The fleshy part of the skin is exceptionally tough and fibrous, and if it were used for very large volumes where paring down need not be resorted to, the book would get the full advantage of its strength; but for ordinary work it has to be shaved to such an extent that the toughest part is removed, and there remains only the grain part which is exceptionally cartilaginous. Moreover, as at present prepared, it is so much deprived of its natural fat that it loses additionally in strength.

True Morocco is goat skin tanned with sumach and dyed, exhibiting great firmness of texture combined with flexibility. It owes its appellation to the fact that it was first brought from Morocco, and afterwards from other parts of the Barbary coast and the Levant—whence comes another name for the best goat, "Levant morocco." Levant moroccos are often worked up from the best selections of skins obtainable from the Atlas slopes and the Cape. Switzerland and Germany furnish large supplies of goat skins of a good quality, and an exceedingly good class comes from Norway, which skins are used to a large extent for art bindings, being principally finished "bright," with a straight grain. The question arises, why is morocco grained? As to the origin of graining the various works on leather are silent; in all probability it was at first accidental. The writer advances the idea that graining may have had its origin during the middle ages when various articles of clothing were made of leather. During that period the Moors of Spain and Morocco undoubtedly possessed the greatest skill in the dressing and manipulation of leather, Cordova enjoying a certain pre-eminence—whence the English term, "cordwain," and the French "cordonnier." These leathers were exported to various parts of the Occident for purposes of clothing, etc. The knight and his squire would require leathern jerkins, and the leather, before being cut up for these garments would have to be shrunk, in which process it would pucker up. Thus an undesirable by-product was obtained, which, being inevitable, was made to look as presentable as possible. That the skilful graining of morocco enhances its appearance is unquestionable, and it is also true that by this process the leather acquires the necessary degree of pliability and suppleness; but the necessity of shrinking the leather for binding purposes is not of primary importance, as it was when employed for clothing, so that to some extent the graining is a survival of former utility, like the buttons on the back of men's tail-coats. Graining certainly does not add to the toughness of the leather, and as library bindings have to serve a utilitarian purpose, this aspect should have first claim, rather than the æsthetic taste of the librarian. As the large grain of morocco provides a receptacle for harbouring dust and bacilli, agencies

that considerably shorten the life of a binding, it should not be employed for library bindings. Small grained, or comparatively small grained, morocco will answer to the requirements of a library binding better. Some librarians consider that pigskin is a more durable material for general library work, but the claims of morocco are now receiving more attention, for it and sealskin seem to be the only coloured leathers suitable for public library bindings which have no serious drawbacks. The writer can testify to this fact from personal experience. At the library with which he is connected the bindings of several volumes bound in pigskin over ten years ago are now almost decayed, while books bound in morocco, subject to the same conditions and used for the same period, are in perfect condition.

The SEALSKIN tanned for bookbinding leather is that of the "blue-back," or rough-haired seal; the fur seal being too valuable and too much in demand for wearing apparel to be treated as ordinary leather. Sealskin occupies a unique position. Its toughness is not inferior to the best goat and its suppleness is superior to that excellent leather, inasmuch as it contains a good supply of natural oil; moreover, it is very agreeable to the touch. It is prepared and tanned with oak bark and sumach similarly to the other light leathers. The grain, small or coarse, is very even, there being no drawbacks of large portions of neck, shank and belly, as in goat. This grain has, moreover, a peculiar lustre, absent in every other leather, which enhances the appearance of the leather. The price is, of course, considerably higher, no doubt on account of its limited supply, but it is not altogether prohibitive. Valuable works and expensive editions well deserve the use of sealskin, for it has been truly said that "the binding is the robe of honour in which we invest a noble book." Little is known definitely of the durability of sealskin, as it has not been put to a sufficiently long test in point of time.

VELLUM is a term properly applicable only to calf skin, prepared by long exposure in lime and afterwards scraped and rubbed down with pumice-stone; but the term is sometimes loosely applied to the skin of goats and kids similarly prepared. The best vellum is now made from the skin of the white calf, which comes principally from Denmark. It is a skin which probably offers the greatest resistance both to actual strain and the action of chemicals. It is, however, affected by atmospheric variations, heat and moisture causing it to warp and cockle, and is also influenced by light, under the effect of which it sometimes becomes quite brittle. If kept in a dark place, vellum will be found exceedingly durable. It has additional advantages to recommend it, for it does not hold dust, and may be cleaned without injury to itself. Vellum is specially valuable for the corners of books and deserves to be extensively used for this purpose, as it is harder and firmer than any other leather.

PERSIAN MOROCCO, which is employed largely for cheap bookbinding purposes, is a mechanically strong and useful leather, made of the skin of a small hardy goat abounding in Persia and the East Indies, the finest skins coming from Madras and Singapore. These skins would lend themselves to a quality of leather almost as good as the best morocco were it not for the fact that the rough tanning with turwar bark done on the spot is injurious to the after life of the skins. Still more so is the process of detannisation which they have to undergo to get rid of the effect of the turwar bark tanning, and the further treatment with sulphuric acid. The retanning in sumach, or a combination of sumach and oak, is, however, of little avail, and a comparatively short number of years of service—ten at most—find the books bound in leather thus treated well on the way of "red decay."

The term PERSIAN CALF is entirely a misnomer. It is applied to Persian and East Indian skins from the small hardy mountain sheep that have an intermixture of a large proportion of hair amongst their wool. The skins merely resemble calf by their smooth surface. The ill-usage of these Persian sheep and goat skins is doubly deplorable, as such thin, tough skins which require no shaving, consequently no removal of the best fibrous layers on the flesh side, would be peculiarly well-adapted to the binding of durable library books. As it is, Persians are still most useful for the bindings of books that have a "short life and a hard," such as the most frequently used volumes of fiction require. The grease imparted to the binding by constant handling acts as a preservative.

(To be concluded).

TWO IMPORTANT NEW BOOKS.

Manual of Descriptive Annotation for Library Catalogues. By Ernest A. Savage, with chapter on Evaluation and Historical Note by Ernest A. Baker, M.A. London: Library Supply Co., 1906. Cr. 8vo. 155 pp. Price 5s. net.

Unfortunately for the thorough study of our craft, we possess no complete bibliography of the literature of library economy. When any such appears our fairminded American cousins will be surprised to find how much England has contributed to that study. Cutter's is certainly the best cataloguing manual, but Quinn is more intelligible to the young cataloguer. Richardson has certainly theorised admirably on the study of classification; but Mr. Brown, with far less tediousness than Edward Edwards, has reduced the chaos of practical classification schemes to some sort of logical sequence. There is no text book on the subject in any language that will bear comparison with the now out-of-print "Manual of Library Economy"; in fact, no other text-book can be said to exist, for the primers of Dana, Stearns, Roebuck and Thorne, excellent and valuable as they are, necessarily touch the ground in a perfunctory manner. The best books on indexing are English, although we have had one treatise—not Mr. Clarke's—which may serve as the awful example. And now, on Annotation, an art which, rightly or wrongly, has hitherto been considered peculiarly American, we have the text-book of Mr. E. A. Savage, the new Chief Librarian of Wallasey and at one time Education Secretary of the L.A.A.

At the outset we may say our regard for the book is almost one of unqualified admiration. A first reading revealed that it was planned on the sane principle of evolution, each section springing naturally and necessarily from the preceding one; and that it was written in an interesting style minus the aggressive Americanisms that we personally had begun to fear in the author. At the same time the examples seemed too few; but a few minutes' consideration of the difficulty of discovering suitable illustrative quotations, and a realisation of the fact that every example is an actually existing annotation, changed this view into one of wonder at the plenty of the examples, and increased proportionately our respect for the writer's industry.

We do not think Mr. Savage altogether just to the catalogue from which one or two of his examples are taken. For example, we quote from page 14.:

Gibbon. Decline and fall of the Roman Empire.
Deals with the growth of Christianity, the doctrine

and history of the early Church, and the conduct of the Roman Government towards Christians from the reign of Nero. Written with strong bias.

Now towards which side was the bias, towards Christianity or the Romans? The essential fact is omitted. Curiously enough the same catalogue couples another book with Gibbon, and again omits the essential fact in the annotation to it:—

Sheppard. Fall of Rome.

Brings out with great clearness the way in which the new nationalities were evolved out of the confusion resulting from the invasions and breaking up of the old empire. The author's religious point of view is the opposite of Gibbon's.

And Gibbon's is not stated—that is, we know nothing about either Sheppard's or Gibbon's standpoints, save that they are opposite.

The second note here is from the Bishopsgate Institute Catalogue, apparently; and is in the same column as a note on Gibbon, not as transcribed by our author, but as follows:—

Gibbon. Decline and fall of the Roman empire.

The materials for this history are not arranged in strict chronological order, but in accordance with their moral and political significance and written with a strong bias. Describes the origin and growth of Christianity without sympathy.

which presents just the essential fact that Mr. Savage says has been omitted, and instead of being the absurdity it would be if written as it is declared to be, is a good example of relative description. But probably Mr. Savage deliberately made the example to illustrate a valuable point, and as presented it does illustrate it excellently.

Another point that arrested us was the evidence of the writer's inordinate love of "forms," as shown in the chapters on the practical work of annotation. An examination of these too, shows how thoroughly they justify their existence, not only as aids in facilitating annotative work, but as mnemonic tables by which the annotator may keep in mind the salient points of his work. A final objection is the argumentative tone rather than the expository which is adopted in certain chapters, especially where the annotation of juvenile books is treated, and in Mr. E. A. Baker's most interesting contributed chapter on "Evaluation or Characterization." A more directly explanatory attitude would be better, we think.

The work is divided into two parts, the first of which deals with the whole field of the art with a full discussion of the principles and two chapters on method; the second is a complete code, an elaborate expansion of the code which appeared in the "Library Association Record" for December, 1904. Roughly, Mr. Savage adopts De Quincey's division of literature into the literature of power and the literature of knowledge, and adds another section, juvenile literature. Under each of these headings he lays down a series of rules by which an annotation may be built up, with reference to the author, subject, treatment and editing. The method is descriptive, i.e., to use Mr. Savage's definition elsewhere, "an abstract of the scope and character of the book . . . excluding judgment."

Rules and examples of reading lists and bibliographical articles suitable for library bulletins are also added. Several typical notes are analysed

and the more general errors and omissions are explained. On page 57 Mr. Savage has a memory table of annotation which every assistant who would be an annotator should keep before him, and if he learns it by heart, so much the better.

One most interesting suggestion is that "annotations to books in modern languages should be written in the language of the books," because anyone able to read the book can read the annotation and may not be able to read English. This would be accomplished, we suppose, where the staff are not expert linguists, by the librarian first writing the note in English, and then getting some expert to turn it into the purest form of foreign language.

Mr. Baker in his chapter makes out a good case against the too-prevalent American words "evaluation" and "appraisal," and describes his method of book annotation as "characterization," which apparently applies to books as the human science of characterology does to man. He emphasises the fact that the need of the present day is not merely good notes for catalogues of particular libraries, but also for a series of guide books to books in all divisions of literature; this end is to be reached by an editorial board composed of half a dozen specialists on the particular subjects and an equal number of librarians. Mr. Baker's book-note—he avoids the term "annotation" as far as possible—would comprise all the features of a descriptive note "and would in addition give the literary flavour, would 'place' the book as nearly as might be in proper relation to other books, and would, in a word, individualise it to the fullest extent possible in the narrow compass available."

The second part of the work is the code of rules for annotating books from almost every point of view. It would be impossible in the space at our disposal to exhibit one tithe of the excellence of these directions. Suffice it to say there is scarcely a difficulty that is not well covered. The final chapter of the book is of "Rules applicable to Literature, class by class," a method adopted by Mr. J. D. Stewart and the present writer in a recent discussion of annotation ("Library World," Vol. 8, pp. 36, 174), but presenting important differences. Mr. Savage's rules on the annotation of children's books are especially interesting.

We object to the following:—

"Bell. Wee Macgregor.

Much Glasgow dialect; not easy reading for the Southron."

We believe that "Southron" is a Scotch slang term for people living south of the Cheviots. Colloquialisms are all very well, but they should only be used sparingly in library literature. Above all things libraries should endeavour to retain the purity of the language; and in such points also as American usages should follow, not lead, the trend of current literary use, and this in spite of the recent statement of Professor Skeat that the trend of modern language is towards the frantically ugly phonetic spelling. But when all is said the book remains the best and fullest exposition of the subject that has yet appeared. Simple, concise, logical, it has cleared the ground of the annotator of numberless pitfalls, and makes the finest form of annotation possible in every kind of library.

We would urge every library assistant to purchase this book. The principles of our profession can only be preserved by thorough text-books such as this, and unless library assistants personally support the publishers and authors of such, the better work must tend to stagnate. It should become a principle of professional patriotism to encourage such works as these. At the best the returns can only be small, and Mr. Savage will inevitably have to rest content with a work well done.

Subject Classification. By James Duff Brown. London: Library Supply Co., 1906. Royal 8vo, 423 pp. Price, 15s. net.

This work is without doubt the highest achievement of British librarianship. For some time past it has been known that Mr. Brown has found both the Adjustable and Quinn-Brown classifications too broad for very large or special libraries, and that he was working on an expansion of the former. Now, however, "The Subject Classification" which has resulted is seen to be no mere expansion of a previous system, but an entirely new one, and one that must be regarded as a competitor with the Decimal and its expansion by the Institut International, and the Expansive systems. Anyone who has attempted to compile a classification of a single subject—a pastime which we commend to our more vigorous-minded readers—say, of photographs, will, if he does it conscientiously, learn how very much labour and knowledge is involved in that small area. And when we turn over the 423 pages of the new classification, our breath catches at the thought of the labour and research which must have been expended in its production.

The volume opens with an introduction of 56 pp., and involuntarily we feel profoundly grateful that it is not written in the mangled phonetics of Dewey. The introduction sets forth briefly the theory of classification, clears up the confusion which has too often existed between classification and cataloguing, and then proceeds to detail the various points of the tables following. It also has several book numbers to be used in connection with the notation for arranging individual authors, among them the simple and useful Merrill table, which in a series of one hundred places permits of very close alphabetical arrangement, and the Biscoe Date Table for arranging works chronologically together with a new and more extended date table. Mr. Brown has an ingenious method of making his notation almost a complete annotation; for example, **I714** is the number of Johnston's "Is Smoking Injurious"; by the addition of one of the letters "a" or "f" the point of view—pro or con—is indicated; thus, **fI714** indicates that the book advocates the smoking habit. A list of the aids necessary to the classifier is also given. The appendices to the introduction contain a table for arranging the works of an author; a very interesting scheme contributed by Mr. R. K. Dent for classifying a particular author, Shakespeare being the subject used as an example; and, also, a "Classification of Library Economy, Administration and Office Papers," by Mr. L. Stanley Jast. This last is a decimal classification, and is the most elaborate working out of a single subject we have ever seen. Some valuable Categorical Tables precede the tables of the classification. These are numbers, arranged after a point, for dividing further any topic named in the main tables; for example, **J219** is Kissing, and **J219.1** is the Bibliography and **J219.10** the History of the subject. The main tables follow and occupy some 159 double-columned pages. We may regret that these are printed in double columns rather than in the manner of Dewey and Cutter, and we think a few more typographical distinctions would have made the subordination of entries clearer. But the double columns have resulted in a smaller volume than would have been the case if the printing had been one column to a page, and that is something. A numerical table, worked out minutely, for arranging individual biography, fiction and various other "form" classes is appended to the main tables.

The index is a superb piece of work, and bears comparison with the Index to the Decimal System issued by the Institut International. It contains many more subjects than Dewey, but Dewey's Index is longer because the various aspects of the subjects are given in the latter. Under the word "Trees" in the two indexes we are referred as follows:

Brown
Trees

E513

Dewey
Trees

botany	582
fruit culture	634
in streets,	
sanitation	628.48
ornamental	715

The inference is that Mr. Brown's is a one-place classification, and works on all aspects of Trees are to be found in E513. This is not so, however; in E513 we have trees as a form of vegetation in the botanical division of Biological Science, but Forestry is I250 in Economic Biology and Domestic Arts. Again, the ornamental treatment of trees, Topiary is I231 in Landscape Gardening, and Fruit Trees are in I225. All this separation is essential, of course, but the index would have been enhanced had it been shown under the word Trees. This is the main omission in the Index; in very few cases is the classifier's point of view known without reference to the tables. Still, these remarks do not alter the fact that more subjects are admitted in the index than in that of any existing system, and one should classify a book in one's mind before appealing to the index.

The arrangement of the Main Tables is unlike any other, the first divisions of knowledge being Generalia, Matter and Force, Life, Mind, Record. If one pauses for a moment, one will see how logical this evolutionary arrangement is; in Nature we have first chaos, which may well be represented by Generalia, then the primal factors of the cosmos Matter and Force, from which springs Life; the highest form of life is Mind, and the highest achievement of mind is the chronicling of its processes as shown in Record. Thus far the correlation is more perfect than any we have yet met with in library classification, but we receive a sudden shock on discovering the connotation Mr. Brown gives to his terms. Generalia includes Education, Logic, Mathematics and the Graphic and Plastic Arts. Hitherto we had always imagined Education to be a part of sociology, on the ground that the family, the school, the town and the state were all societies. Again Logic always appeared to be a part of mind; logical *method* is perhaps general, but logic is surely the science of the laws of the processes of mind and closely related to psychology. And surely the graphic and plastic arts have some relation to record. This last, however, is more open to question. In the second broad division Matter and Force the Physical sciences are arranged with their applications. This brings about the remarkable juxtaposition of Acoustics, Music and Astronomy, an arrangement which can be defended on prosaic lines, because "the old distinction between theoretical and applied science is gradually disappearing from all modern text-books . . . and the separation between physical basis and practical application hitherto maintained, will no longer be insisted upon." May we not with equal logic insist that painting being an application of colour is a part of optics and should follow C100 in the classification? Our point is that music is a product of, and makes its appeal to, the emotions, and this side of the subject appears to us to predominate over the physical question of the different number of vibrations that go to make noise or a common chord. But, when all is said, these questions have no great bearing on the intrinsic and practical value of the classification; we comment upon them mainly to indicate how many original points of view are introduced. As an example, class G-H., Ethnology and Medicine, embraces anthropology, physiology, medicine, physical training, and recreation, in fact, "human life, its varieties, physical history, disorders and recreations." The correlation is clear enough here to satisfy the most rigorous criticism.

The notation is flexible, brief, and though what is sometimes called a "mixed" notation, being of letters and numbers, is simple. The divisions

are spread over the first twenty-four letters of the alphabet, and each letter has a separate decimal numerical sequence. The most common length of the symbol is **O700**, three figures preceded by the class letter, and gaps are left in the sequence to permit of the intercalation of topics. Each of these numbers may be divided by the categorical numbers, and the most minute number would not be more complex than **U832.929**.

Mr. Brown's classification proves conclusively that a scheme with one place and only one for every topic is an impossibility. The example, *Trees*, quoted just now, is sufficient proof of this, but Mr. Brown approaches more nearly to that desired end than his predecessors.

We have only presumed to comment briefly upon the book before us. It is premature to attempt to criticise it properly, as a classification such as this demands long and careful study. What we have said will be quite sufficient to prove how very interesting, original and elaborate is the new classification. We are no longer under the reproach of not having produced an exhaustive scheme in Great Britain, and we may thank its designer for a work which will enhance the position of the British librarian in the eyes of his foreign confrères, and at the same time we offer him our humble congratulations on the completion of so great and so laborious a task.

W. C. BERWICK SAYERS.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Reports are to hand from Battersea, Bottle, Brooklyn, Eccles, Pratt Institute (New York), Stoke Newington, Waterloo-with-Seaforth, and Willesden Green; and library magazines from Croydon, Nottingham, Pittsburgh and Wisconsin. From Pittsburgh we have received Part 7 (Fiction) of the Classified Catalogue of the Carnegie Library; and from Newcastle-upon-Tyne a Handlist of editions, commentaries, etc., of Shakespeare, contained in the Central Reference and Lending Departments.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATION, MAY, 1906.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Henry D. Roberts, Hon. Sec. of the L.A. Education Committee, who kindly furnished us with an advance copy of the Pass List, we are enabled to announce the result of the 1906 Examinations in this issue.

Class I. signifies that the candidates have passed with honours; Class II. with merit; and Class III. that they have satisfied the Examiners. Each Class is arranged in alphabetical order. With one exception all the successful candidates are in active work in libraries.

The Examiners in their report to the Council drew attention to the fact that many candidates who had otherwise done good papers showed a lack of knowledge of Library law.

Members of the L.A.A. are denoted by an asterisk.

PASS LIST.

Section I.—LITERARY HISTORY (4 candidates).

Classes 1 and 2.—Nil.

Class 3.—K. Willis Cotton, Gravesend.

Section II.—ELEMENTS OF PRACTICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY (4 candidates).

Classes 1 and 2.—Nil.

Class 3.—*F. W. Cudlip, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.; Joseph C. Darby, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.; *James D. Stewart, Islington.

Section III.—CLASSIFICATION (24 candidates).

Class 1.—*R. D. Macleod, Glasgow; *W. C. Berwick Sayers, Croydon; *James D. Young, Greenwich.

Class 2.—*Henry T. Coutts, Islington; *George E. Denne, Richmond; *William A. Peplow, Croydon; *F. Seward, Bromley, Kent; Miss Isabel Taylor, The Library, London School of Economics.

Class 3.—*J. Bailey, Hampstead; *R. Cooper, Battersea; Miss L. Fairweather, Kingston; P. E. Farrow, Brockley Library, Lewisham; Sidney A. Firth, Birkenhead; *E. Garner, Southwark; *J. V. Jacobs, Richmond; *Sidney Kirby, Stroud Green Library, Hornsey; *Ernest Luke, Woolwich; Miss Grace McKenzie, Finsbury; Miss E. Ramage, Huguenot College, Wellington, Cape Colony; *Henry A. Twort, Croydon; William Wilson, Gateshead; W. A. Weight, Holborn.

Section IV.—CATALOGUING (38 candidates).

Class 1.—*George E. Denne, Richmond; *R. D. Macleod, Glasgow; *Geo. E. Roebuck, St. George's Library, Stepney; James Ross, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; *W. C. Berwick Sayers, Croydon.

Class 2.—*J. Bailey, Hampstead; *John B. Ellison, Leeds Institute, Leeds; R. E. Hardy, Hartley University College, Southampton; Robert Lillie, Middlesbrough; Miss Aileen MacMahon, Toynbee Hall Library; *William A. Peplow, Croydon; *F. Seward, Bromley, Kent; *Henry A. Twort, Croydon; *James D. Young, Greenwich.

Class 3.—*John Barr, Glasgow; *Reginald W. Brown, Northampton; *R. Cooper, Battersea; *L. H. Cousins, West Hill Library, Wandsworth; *Henry T. Coutts, Islington; W. C. Farnell, Walsall; Sidney A. Firth, Birkenhead; *J. V. Jacobs, Richmond; *Miss Alice Jones, Islington; *Sidney Kirby, Stroud Green Library, Hornsey; Ernest W. Neesham, Gainsborough; *Thomas W. Powell, Kingston; *O. W. Stone, East Ham; Miss Isabel Taylor, The Library, London School of Economics; *George White, Fulham.

Section V.—LIBRARY HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION (28 candidates).

Class 1.—*George A. Stephen, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.

Class 2.—*William A. Peplow, Croydon; *John Warner, Croydon.

Class 3.—Miss Gertrude A. Boyd, Kettering; *Reginald W. Brown, Northampton; *Edgar G. H. Carter, Deptford; Montague Clark, Hornsey; *F. W. Cornwall, Croydon; *Henry T. Coutts, Islington; J. A. Louis Downey, West Hartlepool; P. E. Farrow, Brockley Library, Lewisham; *C. J. Gates, Croydon; *Miss Mizpah Gilbert, Fulham; O. C. Hudson, Goole; *Maurice H. B. Mash, Croydon; R. Norman A. Miller, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; W. Morgan, Cardiff; *A. M. Moslin, Limehouse Library, Stepney; Edward Pearson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; *George E. Roebuck, St. George's Library, Stepney; *O. W. Stone, East Ham; Miss Isabel Taylor, The Library, London School of Economics; *George White, Fulham; *Archibald H. Yates, Hornsey.

Section VI.—PRACTICAL LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION (54 candidates).

Class 1.—Thomas Coulson, Sunderland; *Geo. E. Roebuck, St. George's Library, Stepney; *George A. Stephen, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.

Class 2.—A. W. Barker, Glenlogan, Cockington, Torquay; *Henry T. Coutts, Islington; J. A. Louis Downey, West Hartlepool; W. Graham, Gateshead; *Sydney E. Harrison, Cheltenham; John McAdam, Municipal Museum, Warrington; W. Morgan, Cardiff; *Frederick G. S. Port, Central Library, Camberwell.

Class 3.—*John Barr, Glasgow; *Ernest J. Bell, Fulham; *Reginald W. Brown, Northampton; William Brown, Sunderland; *Edgar G. H. Carter, Deptford; A. R. Cass, Public Library, Stoke Newington; *F. W. Cudlip, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.; P. E. Farrow, Brockley Library, Lewisham; *E. Fletcher, St. George's Library, Stepney; *Miss Mizpah Gilbert, Fulham; R. E. Hardy, Hartley University College, Southampton; *Herbert Henderson, Lyceum Library, Liverpool; F. Jarratt, Huddersfield; J. Wilson Lambert, Sunderland; *Miss Edith Lea, Wigan; *Ernest S. Martin, Twickenham; *Maurice H. B. Mash, Croydon; Miss M. Ellen Morton, Technical College, Huddersfield; A. Oakey, Central Library, Camberwell; *William A. Peplow, Croydon; *S. E. Searle, Shoreditch; H. H. Smith, Wigan; *O. W. Stone, East Ham; *H. G. Sureties, Shepherd's Hill Library, Hornsey; *Hubert Godfrey Swift, Wallasey; Miss Isabel Taylor, The Library, London School of Economics; *Charles E. Thomas, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.; *John Warner, Croydon; *George White, Central Library, Fulham; *Reginald G. Williams, Wallasey.

On behalf of the Board of Examiners—

HENRY R. TEDDER, Chairman.

HENRY D. ROBERTS, Hon. Secretary.

July 31st, 1906.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

Library Association Examination, 1906.

Dear Sir,—I have only just seen your issue for June and the letter on p. 119, signed "Fair Play." The signature is surely a very inappropriate one, for the last thing in the world which your correspondent appears to think about is fair play.

As I was present at the opening of each section at the London centre, I should like to be allowed to say that the fact that candidates could take an extra half-hour was announced by me before the examination commenced on each occasion. I do not say that I approve of the extension of time, but I do say the announcement was made at the commencement of the examination and not at the end as your correspondent states.

With reference to the second paragraph, the sneer contained in it is surely uncalled for. To my mind it is a subject for congratulation, not the reverse, that when a member of the Board of Examiners finds himself at the last moment unable to act as supervisor on a particular occasion he is able to send a member of his staff to take his place. Your correspondent knows as well as I do that practically the whole duty of the supervisor was to collect the papers as they were finished and forward them to me.

HENRY D. ROBERTS.

Public Library Museums and Fine Art Galleries, Brighton.

Catalogue Annotations.

Sir,—Your interesting correspondent "Bellicosus," whose education geographically seems to have been somewhat neglected, in the eagerness to locate plagiarism or platitudinarianism in my short epistle, has erred so grievously in parts that a sense of moral duty compels me to reply. I do so in the hope of engendering in him that which presently he appears deplorably to lack—the ordinary virtue of carefulness. Methinks if Mr. Bellicosus has read his "books and articles" on annotation with as much insouciance as he appears to have read my short communication, his knowledge of the literature of annotation must be small.

In his haste to criticise Mr. Bellicosus has apparently not even taken time to observe the object of my letter, which I may again state was to direct attention to the growing practice of entering sub-titles in nonpareil underneath catalogue entries without indicating, by the use of inverted commas or some other method, the fact of their being sub-titles; for sub-titles in nonpareil cannot be called annotations. The *raison d'être* of the letter was obvious enough, and only a natural dullness of intellect could have made Mr. Bellicosus mistake my meaning. I don't object in the least to the placing of sub-titles in nonpareil as Mr. Bellicosus informs me I do. I have always looked upon the practice as a wise economy in public library catalogues and have "done this kind of thing" for some time now. But as sub-titles cannot be called annotations by any process of reasoning, I advocate that to distinguish them when placed in nonpareil from annotations, they should certainly be enclosed in inverted commas. But this our bellicose authority does not allow. He would print sub-titles and annotations in nonpareil without indicating which were sub-titles and which were annotations! In short, he would "bluff" the public into believing that all "notes" in nonpareil underneath entries were annotations. I am here reminded of an authentic yarn I heard recently of an assistant who was aspiring to L.A. Certificates, and had consulted his chief on the subject. The advice the chief gave has always struck me as being characteristic of the idea of the profession entertained by a goodly number of librarians and assistants. "Man, Sandy," said Oracle, "as Mr. So-and-so told me" (specifying an indicator-man), "the British librarian gets on by a game of bluff." Needless to say, that librarian is in the mud. I do not insinuate that the ethics of Mr. Bellicosus are identical with those of the indicator-man, but there is a remarkable likeness between them. I would ask Mr. Bellicosus to consider my suggestion that sub-titles when given underneath entries should be placed in nonpareil, as the method I advocate has bibliographical correctness to commend it, which his method lacks entirely. I have not neglected my general education in order to study annotation literature, but I do not remember reading one article by any authority which Mr. Bellicosus could point to as supporting his theory. Doubtless in his perusal of the four authorities whom he apparently hangs by, Messrs. "Cutterduquinnbrown," and in the contributions to the subject of Messrs. Hies, Dana, Savage, Fairchild, Baker, Bond, and the Library of Congress cataloguers, Mr. Bellicosus will have observed an apparent agreement on the point that the source of an annotation, when it is not original, should be indicated. The method the American authorities approve is illustrated in the *A.L.A. Catalog*, 1904. I do not remember reading in any article on annotation anything to support my contention that sub-titles if given in nonpareil should be placed in inverted commas, but from the fact that all authorities agree that the source of annotations should be given, I conclude that all would likewise agree (excepting Mr. Bellicosus!) that annotations and sub-titles in nonpareil should be differentiated. The practice has sound commonsense—the ultimate authority—to commend it.

For a critic Mr. Bellicosus displays rather astonishing ignorance as to what my letter contained when he talks about my expansive remarks on the theory of annotation. I haven't seen them; they don't exist. As a consequence I am led to surmise that Mr. Bellicosus's study of "books and articles" on annotation has given him a severe attack of mental aberration, else he would not have made this remark. I certainly was not aware that I had incorporated an essay on the theory of annotation into my communication.

The letter of Bellicosus is barren of either information or suggestion—of the kind guaranteed to make "a practical and thinking man irritable," and did your correspondent know as much about the literature of annotation as his style indicates he believes he does, his letter would have been vastly more interesting. As it is, it strikes me as being as fine an example of yarning on a base of what in the language of the Lobby is called terminological inexactitudinarianism as I have come across for quite a considerable time.

VIATOR

St. Mungo.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Thank you for allowing me to glance through Mr. Viator's letter before it appears. As he says, I know absolutely nothing about annotation, nothing about geography, and nothing whatever of the polite art of filling a whole page with long words. A reference to my letter would have proved that. I merely adhere to my belief that subtitles, acknowledged or unacknowledged, may legitimately appear as annotations. Mr. Viator doesn't agree; I merely bow in my best eighteenth-century manner, and say I'm vastly honoured by his opposition.

BELlicosus.

The L.A.A. Sessional Programme.

Sir,—I have followed with great interest the splendid series of papers read at the monthly meetings of the L.A.A., and while recognising their great merit and value, would like to suggest that instead of the papers being delivered in an unsystematic course as at present, they should take a systematic form, thereby enhancing their practical utility to library assistants.

The four sections (sections 3-6) of the Library Association's Examination Syllabus offer a good standard, but this may be modified to suit our special requirements. During the first session, according to this syllabus, papers would be read on the Catalogue. Introductory papers on the objects and kinds of catalogues would be given, followed by papers on the debatable points of cataloguing, and if two sides were taken up, one advocating the dictionary and the other the classed catalogue, fruitful discussions would, I am certain, be the result. In the Administration series there would be a better opportunity for *pro* and *con* papers. For instance, such debatable matters as open access, newsrooms, lecture-halls, museums, etc., could be discussed with profit. There is no need to elaborate on the methods by which this scheme could be worked. No doubt many difficulties would need to be faced, but, I am certain, these could be met and successfully combated.

Some may consider that this proposal is antagonistic to the London School of Economics classes on Librarianship, but that is not so. At these classes the foundation for study is laid: assistants being taught the first

principles, but at the meetings of the L.A.A., an opportunity would be offered for assistants to ventilate their own opinions. Rather than being antagonistic these papers would be helpful; assistants would recognise the need for study and discussion, and would no doubt, join both, because of their mutual aid in promoting professional fitness.

We as library assistants generally recognise the benefits of systematic lectures in connection with our libraries, yet we do not follow the principle in practice as we might.

I trust that this matter will be discussed in your columns, and that such a course will be, at least, experimented upon in next session's programme.

SYSTEMA.

RESIGNATION OF MR. H. D. ROBERTS, HON. SEC., L.A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

It will be a source of regret to all assistants who have, for the last ten years, been students for, and candidates at the L.A. Examinations, to know that owing to the pressure of his new duties at Brighton Mr. Henry D. Roberts is compelled to resign the Secretaryship of the L.A. Education Committee. The enormous amount of voluntary labour Mr. Roberts has performed in connection with the office, and the kindly and ready sympathy he has always extended to students, have made him a *persona grata* to every library assistant in the country. At their last meeting the Committee of the Librarian Assistants' Association unanimously elected Mr. Roberts Honorary Member of the Association, as the highest recognition they can offer.

APPOINTMENTS.

*STEPHEN, Mr. G. A., Senior Assistant, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., to be Chief Assistant, St. Pancras.

*BOLTON, Mr. G. R. Assistant, Fulham, to be Senior Assistant, St. Pancras.

PREECE, Mr. J. F., to be Junior Assistant, St. Pancras.

HIGGS, Mr. R. W., Assistant, St. George-in-the-East, to be Chief Assistant, Southend.

* Member L.A.A.

ADDRESSES.

Chairman—Mr. W. Benson Thorne, Bromley Library, Poplar E.

Vice-Chairman—Mr. G. E. Roebuck, St. George's Library, Cable Street, E.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Public Library, Plumstead (Telephone—45 Woolwich).

Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, Central Library, Croydon (Telephone—394 Croydon).

Asst. Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. A. Peplow, Central Library, Croydon.

Hon. Editor—Mr. Hugh Smith, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., to whom matter for the September number should be sent not later than August 21st.